

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 299929

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S/S - APSHANKLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 299929

NODIS

FOR SEITZ

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 9822 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 09 DEC 76.

QTE: S E C R E T GENEVA 9822

NODIS

FOR AMB SCHAUFLE FROM WISNER

DEPT PASS BRUSSELS FOR THE SECRETARY'S PARTY

DEPT PASS LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RH UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: SMITH'S MEETING WITH IVOR RICHARD

1. ROBIN BYATT OF BRITISH DELEGATION DESCRIBED TONE
OF RICHARD'S MEETING WITH SMITH MORNING OF DECEMBER 9
AS CONSIDERABLY BETTER THAN ON PRECEDING EVENING
(GENEVA 9783) BUT STILL VERY COOL. BRITISH GAINED
IMPRESSION THAT SMITH HAD CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT
LEAVING GENEVA BEFORE THE WEEKEND AND WOULD BE GUIDED
BY THE VIEWS OF THE SECRETARY IN HIS DECISION.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 299929

2. IN OTHER RESPECTS, HOWEVER, SMITH'S VIEWS REMAINED BASICALLY THE SAME AS THOSE HE HAD EXPRESSED TO BRITISH DECEMBER 8 AND TO US EARLIER IN THE MORNING (GENEVA 9789). SMITH, DESPITE RICHARD'S URGINGS, STILL REFUSED TO PRESENT HIS VIEWS ON THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT AT A ROUND TABLE SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE. HIS TABLING OF AN ELABORATION OF THE FIVE POINTS WOULD, HE THOUGHT, BE PROVOCATIVE AND MIGHT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE AFRICANS. HE REITERATED THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO ADJOURN THE CONFERENCE AND ALLOW TIME FOR THE NATIONALISTS TO BE BROUGHT AROUND TO CONSIDERING THE FIVE POINTS.

3. SIMILARLY, SMITH REJECTED RICHARD'S SUGGESTION THAT HE EXAMINE THE PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY THE NATIONALISTS AND TRY TO FASHION A NEW PROPOSAL THAT WOULD PROVIDE EQUALLY ADEQUATE ASSURANCES FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. IF IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH AN AGREEMENT ON THE BASIS OF THE FIVE POINTS, THIS WOULD MEAN STARTING ALL OVER AGAIN WITH A NEW EXERCISE IN WHICH EVERYTHING, INCLUDING HIS COMMITMENT TO MAJORITY RULE IN TWO YEARS, WOULD HAVE TO BE RENEGOTIATED. NEVERTHELESS, SMITH REPEATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO EXAMINE ANY NEW PROPOSALS WHICH THE BRITISH MIGHT SUGGEST.

4. IN VIEW OF SMITH'S REFUSAL TO TABLE A PROPOSAL AND RICHARD'S RETURN TO LONDON, BRITISH HAVE SCHEDULED NEITHER ROUND TABLE SESSIONS NOR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS FOR FRIDAY AND SATURDAY. APART FROM CASUAL MEETINGS WITH INDIVIDUAL DELEGATES, THEY WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO TRANSACT ANY FURTHER BUSINESS UNTIL RICHARD'S RETURN. CATTO
UNQTE: ROBINSON

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